

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 02699 141500Z

53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 /065 W

----- 106616

R 141439Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1974

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

INFO USUN NEW YORK 117

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 2699

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, POL, UNGA

SUBJECT: PLO LEADERSHIP IN DAMASCUS

1. EMBOFF ATTENDED FUNERAL YESTERDAY OF RELATIVE OF ONE OF EMBASSY'S PALESTINIAN EMPLOYEES. SHAATH SA'D NASHISHIBI, ABDUL MOHSEN ABU MAIZAR (PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SPOKESMAN) AND KHALID AL-FAHHUM (CHAIRMAN, PALESTINE CENTRAL COUNCIL) ATTENDED. DURING FUNERAL, NASHISHIBI TOLD PALESTINIAN FRIEND OF EMBOFF THAT HE HAD REFUSED TO BE PART OF PLO DELEGATION TO UNGA BECAUSE ARAFAT INTENDED DELIVER HARD-LINED INFLEXIBLE SPEECH. NASHISHIBI INFERRED THIS WAS REASON OTHER TWO WHO PRESENT AT FUNERAL HAD NOT GONE TOO. HE ADDED THAT ARAFAT HAD CHANGED HIS MIND AT LAST MINUTE AND WOULD NOW STRESS FLEXIBILITY AND PLO WILLINGNESS TO PURSUE PEACEFUL COURSE TOWARD SETTLEMENT IN ADDITION TO MAINTAINING IT SMILITARY OPTION. NASHISHIBI'S ONE OTHER COMMENT ABOUT PLO DELEGATION WAS THAT HE THOUGHT IT IS VERY GOOD ONE WITH "BEST OF PLO MINDS."

2. NASHISHIBI ALSO MADE SOME CAUSTIC REMARKS ABOUT LEBANESE DELEGATION TO UNGA, ASKING WHY PRESIDENT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAMASC 02699 141500Z

FRANJEH HAD CHOSEN SUCH DUNDERHEADS FOR THE MUSLIM CONTIN-

GENT OF LEBANESE DELEGATION. HE SAID "ANY IDIOT WOULD BE BETTER THAN THEY."

3. IN OTHER BIOGRAPHIC TIDBITS, PALESTINIAN FRIEND, WHO CLOSE ASSOCIATE (IN CASE OF NASHISHIBI, SCHOOL COMPANION) OF THREE PLO LEADERS SAID ABU MAIZAR IS BAATH REPRESENTATIVE ON PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. HE ADDED THAT NASHISHIBI HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN A BAATHI BUT HAD OVER RECENT YEARS DECIDED BAATH IDEOLOGY NOT USEFUL FOR PALESTINIANS. SOURCE SAYS NASHISHIBI NOW CONSIDERED BY OTHERS TO BE COMPLETELY NEUTRAL. SOURCE ADDED HE ALSO HAD SEEN ABU MAIZAR'S BAATH VIEWS MODERATE IN RECENT YEARS.
MURPHY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING DELEGATIONS, LIBERATION FRONTS, PEACE PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974DAMASC02699
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740328-1112
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741144/aaaablg.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUL 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <18 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PLO LEADERSHIP IN DAMASCUS
TAGS: PINR, SY, PLO, (NASHISHIBI, SHAATH SA'D)
To: STATE BEIRUT
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005